The Cradle of the Sea

Chapter 17

BY NAGANO MEI

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Cleaning/Typesetting by Arleea

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The Cradle of the Sea

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Character

Miss H.
(Duke Heartland)

A MYSTERIOUS PASSANGER ABOARD THE LADY. SKIN AS SMOOTH AS A NOBLE'S. INTERCEPTED BY THE NAVY EN ROUTE TO AMERICA.

Tony

AN ENGINE BOY ON THE LADY. HIS HANDS HAVE BEEN BURNED BY THE LADY'S ENGINE. HAS NOW BECOME LOUIS'S SUBORDINATE.

Schmidt

A SAILOR ON THE LADY. OFTEN SENT TO CLIMB THE MAST DUE TO HIS SIZE. TONY'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

Louis

RUNS A FERRY FROM SHORE TO STEAM SHIPS. HIS LEFT LEG AND LEFT ARM ARE PROSTHETICS, BUT HE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT STEAM SHIPS AND ENGINES. WHEN HE FINDS THE WORD "CRADLE" ENGRAVED ON BOARD THE LADY, HE WANTS TO FIND OUT MORE.

Monica

USED TO BE A MAID. DECIDES TO PROTECT HER FORMER MASTER'S SON AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE. TO SEARCH FOR HER FORMER MASTER, SHE HAS TAKEN PASSAGE ON A SHIP.

Evan

THE SON OF MONICA'S FORMER MASTER. WAS ADOPTED BY HIS FATHER'S YOUNGER SON AND HIS WIFE, BUT AFTER BEING KIDNAPPED BY MONICA, IS ON THE SAME JOURNEY AS HER.

George

A MEMBER OF THE ENGLISH NAVY. AS JULIAN'S SUBORDINATE, HE IS TRYING TO CAPTURE DUKE HEARTLAND. HAS A SEVERE MANNER.

Julian

A LIEUTENANT IN THE ENGLISH NAVY. IS AWAITING THE LADY IN IRELAND IN ORDER TO CAPTURE DUKE HEARTLAND.

Neal

THE LADY'S NAVIGATION OFFICER. VIEWS HIMSELF AS THE CAPTAIN'S LIEUTENANT AND HOLDS HIMSELF APART FROM THE REST OF THE CREW. A CLEAN FREAK WITH A LOVE FOR FANCY CLOTHES. BECAUSE OF HIS HIGH-HANDED MANNER, HE IS DISLIKED BY MANY OF THE CREW.

Story

The ship's name is the Lady, a peculiar ship which has trouble retaining engineers. While en route, the ship is almost sunk by a massive wave, and only Louis's skill as an engineer saves them. However, this is not the last trouble that the Lady will meet on its path across the waves...

While on the run with Evan, Monica encounters a massive ship. Realizing that her master may be in America, she decides to embark. While trying to do so, she meets a young boy, Louis, and she and Evan manage to take passage on the ship disguised as his younger brothers.

After living a short while in despair, Monica suddenly comes upon evidence that her master may still be alive. Upon learning that Evan, who has been adopted by his father's younger brother and his wife, is not treated well, she remembers the promise she made to protect him and decides to kidnap him and run away.

England, during the Industrial Revolution. Monica, a girl from the slums, is employed by a rich man to watch his beloved son as a nursemaid. However, this happy time quickly passes, as her master and benefactor vanishes at sea while travelling abroad. Monica is ejected from the household...

The Cradle Of The Sea

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WHAT'S WITH THIS DOG? DON'T TELL ME... IT ROWED OVER HERE BY ITSELF?

HEY!

TAP

YOU'RE... RIGHT...

ISN'T IT THE ONE LOUIS AND THE OTHERS TOOK?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, THAT BOAT'S ONE OF OURS.

ヒュウウ...

THE THREE OF THEM WENT OFF TO...?

I WONDER WHERE...

SFX: WHOOOO

WE HAVE TO GET ONTO THE OPEN SEA BEFORE THEY COME AFTER US, OR WE'LL NEVER GET AWAY!

HURRY!

SFX: SPLASH X2

OF COURSE, IF WE CAN'T CONVINCE EVERYONE ELSE FIRST...

THIS IS HEAVY...

YEAH...

SFX: WHAM

REGARD-
LESS,

WE HAVE
TO TRY!

Chapter 17 - Departure from Ireland

HEY!

WHERE DID YOU GET OFF TO, THIS LATE AT NIGHT? WERE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?!

NEAL! LOUIS!

GLANCE

I NEED TO SEE THE CAPTAIN STRAIGHT AWAY!

LET DOWN THE LADDER!

AND WE MIGHT NEED TO LEAVE IN A HURRY, SO WAKE EVERY-ONE UP!

What's going on?

HANG ON NOW! ISN'T THIS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR FITS OF PAS-SION?!

HUH?! WHAT?!

THE NAVY WILL BE HERE SOON. IF WE'RE NOT GONE, IT'LL BE BAD.

TWITCH

HUH?

THE NAVY? WHAT WOULD THEY WANT WITH THIS SHIP?

TONY!

YOU COME WITH ME TO THE ENGINE ROOM!

SFX: GRAB

THAT'S WHAT HE'S GOING TO SEE THE CAPTAIN ABOUT.

ANYWAY, JUST GET READY TO SET SAIL, PLEASE.

Louis and Neal look like they're getting along well, though.

??

WHAT... IN THE WORLD?

SFX: TAP

CLICK

THIS WAY!

AAA

CHATTER

Well, guess we gotta do it... Let's go...

CHATTER

SFX: TAP X3

AH!

SPIN

SFX: LEAP

HEY, WAIT!

DON'T JUST RUN OFF ON YOUR OWN!

SFX: THRUST

ドン

ドン

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HEY! ALL HANDS, WAKE UP! WE GOTTA GET THE SHIP READY TO SAIL!

SFX: STOMP X2, GULP

PLEASE, CALM DOWN.

WE WON'T BE DISCOVERED IN HERE.

SFX: FIDGET X2

BUT...

WOOF

WHAT'S WITH YOU, YOU WEIRD DOG?

DON'T JUST RUN INTO DOORS! HERE, I'LL OPEN IT.

WHO...

SFX: CREAK

ARE YOU?

WELCOME BACK, OLIVER.

'VER! ♥

キ"

む

SFX: GLOMP

AH! AGAIN?

HOP

EVAN?

THAT DOG... AND... WAIT. IT'S YOU?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHY ARE YOU DRESSED AS A WOMAN, MORRIS?

AND WITH THE DUKE, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE FLED THE SHIP?

THAT'S THE NAVY SIGNAL TO PREPARE THE SHIP.

!

SFX: HOOOONK

IF WE START THE ENGINE IMMEDIATELY, WE CAN STILL MAKE IT.

SFX: SCRATCH X2

WE'D BETTER HURRY OURSELVES.

SFX: RUSTLE

TAKE THIS.

HUH? BUT THE ENGINE ISN'T FIXED. TONY...

IT WILL BE VERY USEFUL TO THE ENGINE CREW.

BUT THE ENGINE ISN'T FIXED, IS IT?!

SFX: STOMP X2

UH... YEAH!

BUT WE NEED TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE ENGINE ROOM. CAN WE LEAVE THE CAPTAIN TO YOU?

SORRY, NEAL,

I SUPPOSE THE NAVY'S IN THE SAME SITUATION.

SFX: CLINK

ENGINE COSTS WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND WHEN THE DUKE SHOWED UP, ASKING FOR PASSAGE IN EXCHANGE FOR ALL THAT MONEY.

I'M AT FAULT FOR MY OWN GREED, TOO.

AH...

HUH...

RYAN?

SFX: CLICK

NEAL?! WHAT'S WRONG?

CAPTAIN!

I'VE COME WITH A REQUEST. THE NAVY WILL BE HERE SOON. I WANT US TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

THE NAVY? EXPLAIN, PLEASE.

IT SEEMS HE HAD INFORMATION ABOUT A SHIP CALLED THE CRADLE, AND THAT'S WHY THEY TOOK HIM.

THAT DUKE THE NAVY TOOK PRISONER... WE... RESCUED HIM.

IT SEEMS THAT THIS "CRADLE" INVOLVES THE LADY, AS WELL.
CRADLE...

FOR THE SHIP'S SAKE, PLEASE GIVE THE ORDER TO DEPART AT ONCE!

RIDICULOUS.

I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP.

GASP

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RESISTING THE NAVY IN A MERE MER-CHANT SHIP.

THE NAVY ISN'T ALWAYS CORRECT.

THEY'VE DONE THINGS IN SECRET...

THAT PEOPLE WOULDN'T EVEN THINK POSSIBLE.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS ALREADY.

IT WAS THE SAME WHEN *HE* DIED.

OKAY! SET SAIL!

WAIT A MINUTE! MORRIS AND THAT KID AREN'T EVEN HERE!

THERE'S NO TIME TO EX-PLAIN! HAS THE ANCHOR BEEN RAISED?! ARE ALL HANDS ON DECK?!

WE NEED TO REACH THE OPEN SEA BEFORE THE NAVY CATCHES US!

WE ARE!

W... WE'RE HERE!

?!

UH... SO LET'S SET SAIL!

SFX: WHACK

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MONI...

HEY!

SFX: FWIP

DAMNIT.

WE NEED SAILS UNTIL THE ENGINES ARE AT FULL SPEED!

SFX: STOMP X3

ABOUT THAT! YOU'VE GOT SOME SERI-OUS EXPLAIN-ING TO DO, LATER!

FULL SAIL! RAISE THE MAST!

SFX: TUG X2

STRAIGHT AHEAD!

PULL THE HALYARD AND SHEET! LOOSEN THE BUNTLINE BRACE!

USE THE WIND! WE'LL SHOOT RIGHT UNDER CAMDEN FORT!

SFX: FSSSHHH, TOK X8, CLANK X6

WITH THIS OLD-STYLE ENGINE, IT'S HARD FOR THE PARTS FROM THE CRADLE TO RETAIN EQUILIBRIUM.

ELECTRICITY... WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT EXPENSIVE ON THE SHIP.

FOR THE BURNERS,

THE BEST THING TO GET THEM TO EQUILIB-RIUM WILL BE TO USE ELECTRICITY.

HI!

LOUIS!

SFX: CLATTER X2

I BORROWED THEM FROM SCHMIDT...

?!

WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE CLOTHES?!

PANT PANT

YOU!

THE PARTS OF THE CRADLE THAT ARE IN THE LADY ARE...

MORE IMPORTANTLY, THIS IS FROM THE DUKE!

SO FAR AS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE,

THE STARTING WHEEL. FOUR CYLINDERS. AND...

THE NAVY SHIP? WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?

KEEP SOUNDING FOR DEPTH! CAREFUL FOR THE REEF!

CAPTAIN!

THEY'RE BESIDE US! THEY'RE BOARDING!

DON'T LET A SINGLE SAILOR ON OUR SHIP!

SFX: GASP

LOWER THE MAST! STOP THIS SHIP!

SFX: YAAH!

ドガッ

USE WHATEVER'S AT HAND! STOP THEM!

SFX: WHAM

SLIDE

SLIDE

Graaah!

SNIP

Aaaah!

Take that!

SFX: SPLASH

ば

SFX: SLAM

NG... THERE'S TOO MANY!

CUT THE ROPES ON THE MAST! WE CAN'T LET THEM TAKE THE SHIP!

NEAL!

THE NAVY SHIP'S GOING TO PUSH US INTO THE REEF!

THEY'RE TRYING TO CRACK OPEN THE HULL!

GIL! GET US BACK ON TRACK!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE ENGINE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER!

LOUIS!

GASP

WHAT'S THAT?!

IT'S A BATTERY COIL! WE CAN USE IT TO GENERATE POWER!

TONY! OVER HERE!

SFX: SLAM

WHAT? WHY THE HECK IS THAT ON THE LADY?!

TONY! YOUR HAND!

MONICA?!

MONICA! HELP OUT! GO UP AND CONNECT IT TO THE STARTING WHEEL!

?!

WE NEED TO CONNECT THE CONDUCTING WIRE TO THE BURNER!

I'M STARTING THE GAS! GET YOUR HANDS OFF!

SLAM

SFX: SLAM

CLANK

CHINK

CHEE

NOW, SPIN IT, MONICA!

SFX: SPIN

SFX: FWOSH

?!

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

SFX: CREAK X7, CLANK X2, CRACK, FSSH X3, SPLASH

SFX: YANK

CRACK
CRACK

SFX: BOOM

ALL RIGHT!

SFX: YEAH!

GILLIAN...

SFX: CLATTER X 4

AND THEIR SPEED...

THEY HAD ENOUGH POWER TO COMPLETEY TEAR OUR MAST APART.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT SHIP?

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT NEED EXPLAINING.

EVERYTHING...

THAT RELATES TO THIS INCIDENT.